(iii) To guide on monitoring of pesticide in carbonated beverages and other food commodities.

(iv) To guide on any other matter on which pesticide residues sub-committee, Central Committee for Food Standards, Department of Health may require technical clarification/guidance.

The Committee has further been requested to provide guidelines also in respect of adverse effect of aerated drinks with additives on public health in the light of the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in case of the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 681 of 2004. The Committee has not submitted its report till date.

Increase of pre-natal sex determination cases

†3771. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of pre-natal sex determination test in the country are constantly on the rise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government's efforts for banning such sex determination tests have ended in failure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are formulating any scheme with the help of State Governments for strict implementation of Pre-Natal (Diagnostic Techniques Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) (a) The child sex ratio for the age group of 0-6 years has declined from 945 girls per thousand boys in 1991 to 927 in 2001. One of the reasons attributed to this decline is sex determination of the foetus followed by female foeticide.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition & Sex Selection) Act, 1994 is implemented by the States/ Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed at the State/ Union Territory and district/sub-district level. As per the reports received from the States/Union Territories, 28422 clinics/units have been registered and 384 cases are filed in various courts as on 30-04-2006. One of the problems is that the service seekers and the service providers work in collaboration to defeat/circumvent the provisions of the law and there is no complainant.

(d) and (e) The Government has been issuing instructions from time to time to the States and Union Territories to strictly implement the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and the Supreme Court Directions in this regard. The States/Union Territories have been asked to keep financial provision for implementation of the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniqes Act in their implementation plans funded by Government of India. A Montoring and Support Cell has been established which will work in coordination with the Appropriate Authorities to help them in booking the wrongdoers indulging in sex determination of the foetus. The State like Delhi has started auditing of medical establishments by an independent Committee to find out indirect evidences of violations of the provisions of the Law.

Upgradation of Guwahati Medical College

3772. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to upgrade the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital to the status of AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of financial assistance from the Central Government for upgradation of Medical College and Hospital; and

(d) the extent of assistance being provided by the State Government in this regard alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) (a) to (d) A proposal for upgradation of Guwahati Medical College and Hospital has been received from the Government of Assam and the same is under consideration for techno-economic feasibility.